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CANADIAN FORESTRY CONVENTION

HELD AT MONTREAL, 11 and 12 MARCH 1908

ADDRESSES

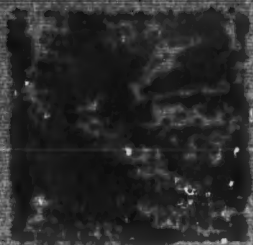
DELIVERED BY

THE HON. SYDNEY FISHER
MR. E. G. JOLY DE LOTBINIERE
MR. HERBERT M. PRICE



QUEBEC

Published by the Departement of Lands and Forests
1908



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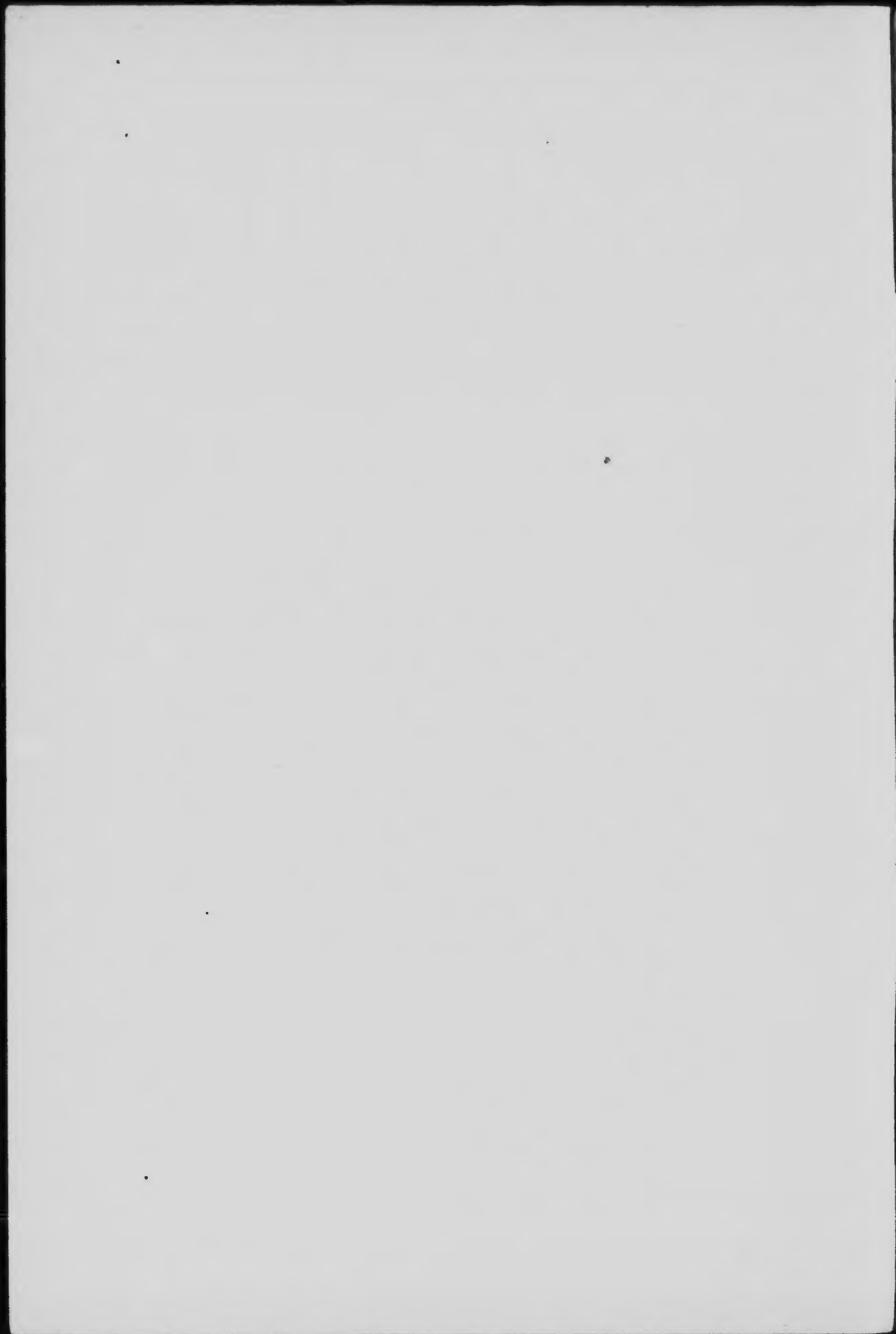
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Extracts from the Proceedings of the Canadian Forestry Convention

ADDRESS OF HON. SYDNEY FISHER

At Montreal, 11 and 12 March 1908

Your Honor Sir Louis,

Mgr Bruchési and Mr President,

I am very glad indeed, Ladies and Gentlemen, to be present at the opening meeting of this forestry conference in the great city of Montreal. I feel it is very appropriate that we should have a meeting of this kind in the commercial metropolis of the country. It is true that, to a large extent, the commercial men of this city are not directly interested in forestry. But, I venture to think that there is nobody in the length and breadth of our country who is more directly interested in this work than are the great commercial men of this city. We have had for a long time the advantage of the study of this important question by political economists, by those who are responsible for the legislation of the country, and by the students in our universities and schools. But it is high time that the man on the street, the average man who is interested in the business of the land, should take up this question, so as to understand it sufficiently at all events, to induce him to give his support to the Governments, which are working in the direction of the conservation of our forests, and of the students and political economists who are pointing the way for those in authority to act.

I am glad to-day to see the representative of the King in our province of Quebec present to open this conference. It is fitting indeed that the head of the State should do this work. Especially is this the case in regard to forestry, because, in the larger sense at all events, the forestry of Canada, applies chiefly and primarily to the Crown domain of our country, and the lands of our country, which are chiefly under forest in regard to which forestry must be applied, are chiefly the domain of the Crown. Especially is this the case in the various provinces, because in the purview and control of the Provincial Legislatures is the Crown domain of our provinces, while the Dominion lands which are outside the provinces, or which to a certain extent are still the property of the Dominion, are under the purview and control of the Government of Ottawa.

This subject may then naturally divide itself into three points:

Firstly, the dealing with forestry from the point of view of the Dominion Government, in regard to those lands in the Western countries, which are still under the direct control of the Dominion;

Secondly, with regard to those Crown domains in the various provinces, which are under control of the Provincial authorities;

Thirdly and lastly, and very far behind in importance to the other two, those forests under the control of private proprietors.

Let me say, Sir, that so far as the Dominion Government is concerned, and in this I speak for the Government, the Dominion Government of the present day is most earnestly enthusiastic in doing what it can to preserve our forest wealth on those lands over which we have control. (Applause).

I have only to point to the fact that the first and greatest Forestry Convention of our Dominion was called at the instance of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a few years ago, when it was held at Ottawa, the capital of the country, and that the Dominion Government, on that occasion, laid before the country through that convention, its work, and programme and displayed its interest in this very important question. I think that convention did great good in Canada. It is true before that time the students who were specially interested in this forestry work, and the lumbermen of the country, had been studying and thinking about the vast and terrible waste of our forest lands and wealth. But, I venture to think that the public at large was aroused on that occasion to an interest in the work that it had never evinced before, and I fear it was only too late that this event occurred.

We boast that we are a young nation. We believe that we are a strong nation. We are proud of our material resources throughout the length and breadth of this vast area which is entrusted to our care. But, as we are a young nation, I fear we have a great many of the faults of youth, and have been blind to the necessity for thrift in our forest wealth just as the young man is extravagant with his patrimony, whose resources he does not properly appreciate. We in Canada have had great wealth committed to our charge. We have not properly realized its importance or vastness. We have thought that wealth was inexhaustible, and we have drawn upon the bank of our supplies to such an extent, so wastefully, extravagantly and unscientifically, that to-day we are face to face with the fact that our bank account is almost at an end, even though to-day, as was said a few minutes ago, it has probably the greatest wealth of forest resources of any country in the world.

But country after country have found that they could not go on drawing upon this fund without coming to an end, and we, in Canada, young as we are, with the immense resources that we have, are face to face with the end of that account unless we take care to husband it, and replace it by replanting those trees that are necessary. (Applause)

A reference was made by you, Mr. President, to a recommendation which

was made at that convention for the establishment of forest reserves. Let me most heartily endorse that recommendation: I am glad to say that the Dominion Government, so far as its Western lands are concerned, has to a considerable extent acted upon that recommendation and the Minister of the Interior, during the last few years, has set aside large areas in the Western provinces and in British Columbia as forest reserves.

I am glad to be in a position to-day to say further that in the near future it is the decision of the Government that the whole eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, stretching from the Intercolonial Boundary Line northwards, almost indefinitely, shall be established as an inalienable forest reserve (loud applause), and let me say to those here who may be interested in lumbering, who may believe that even though we must conserve our resources, that we should at the same time enjoy them and reap the full benefit of them—and I agree with those gentlemen most emphatically—that the creation of a forest reserve does not necessarily mean that the trees and products of that reserve shall not be utilized for the present or future generations. A forest reserve must be kept in forest, but for the highest development and utilization of those forests the crop must be cut year after year, time after time, so as to be utilized for the benefit of the people of the country. (Applause).

And therefore, though the great eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains may be made a forest reserve, the people of the provinces which require that lumber will not be debarred from it, nor cut out from getting the lumber which is the natural product from that slope. But this lumber will be cut at the proper time, under strict forestry regulations and in such a manner, as to conserve its resources for a future generation, and still supply the immediate necessities of the settlers on the prairies, where lumber is so hard to get (Applause).

Let me now say another word in regard to the work of the Dominion authorities. In the eastern part of Canada people can hardly realize the necessity of forest plantation. I speak of the farmers and I know that the farmers of the eastern provinces look upon the tree as their natural enemy. The tree, in the field cultivated for ordinary crops, is undoubtedly a difficulty and an obstruction, and interferes to that extent with the agricultural operations of the land. But in the old days as our farmers and settlers were obliged to go to the woodlands of the eastern provinces, they could not make a farm without cutting down the trees. That general custom which was to cut the trees down is passing or has passed away, but unfortunately the spirit, that imbued them with the idea that the tree was the natural enemy to agriculture, still seems to possess a majority of their descendants, and to-day there are few farmers in these eastern provinces who realize that large bodies of woodland are the best friends of agriculture in the eastern provinces as everywhere else.

The eastern people therefore can hardly realize or understand the ne-

cessities of the Western farmer on the great un-treed plains of our prairie provinces for plantation. Mgr Bruchési has instanced one of the most successful experiments at planting on record, even in this forest province of Quebec. If they had an opportunity of examining that Oka plantation — and let me say in that, just as in many other things quite apart from the religious aspect of the question, that the Roman Catholic Church has taken the lead in this country and given us the example which should be followed by the whole land — I am sure that the farmers of the older parts of this province would receive a very useful lesson as to the necessities and advantages of re-afforestation.

You know, Sir, that in the original discoveries of this part of North-America, the missionaries of the Church carried the cross into the forests, over the plains and up the rivers. We know that later on the same Church glorified by the blood of its martyrs carried the progress of settlement through our land and over our continent. But we know to-day that the Missionnaire Agricole, many of whom I know well and have met in my work, is doing to-day for the farmers of the eastern provinces the same work of preaching the gospel of agriculture that in the past days the spiritual missionaries did for the souls of their charges. And, Sir, I hope in the future to see the Missionnaire Agricole succeeded by the Missionnaire Forestier, and I am glad to see from what I have heard to-day from Archbishop Bruchési that in this as in the other two branches the Roman Catholic Church will again take the lead and be in the forefront of this forestry work in Canada. I am thankful to find Archbishop Bruchési present at this meeting to give us words of encouragement and knowledge on this subject, and to tell us what advance and progress has been made under the lead of his Church, which has set an example by this province of Quebec, that may well be emulated throughout the Dominion.

That is an unusual thing in the province of Quebec, but in the great West, my friend, Mr Sifton, then Minister of the Interior, who having dwelt in the treeless prairie country, appreciated and understood years ago that the planting of trees there fore wind-breaks, and to conserve the moisture necessary for the good growth of crops in that region, in order to help the settlers through the prairies, established a Forestry Branch of the Dominion Department of the Interior. I am glad to say that the Forestry Branch during the last seven or eight years has been able to plant millions of trees in the prairie districts of our Dominion, and as a general rule these trees have been successful, and show that it is quite possible, even on the treeless plains, and in what has been supposed to be our semi-arid region, to produce trees sufficient to shelter the homesteads and barns of the settlers.

I am also glad to say that we have been able, by the work of the Department of the Interior, and my own Department of Agriculture, to show, not only that we can plant shelter trees, but I am in a position to-day to say that we can produce fruit trees in the far northern region of our western

country, where up to a few years ago it was supposed to be absolutely impossible for the settlers to grow any kind of fruit fit for human use. This is a triumph, I will not say, of forestry, but of horticulture of which I am proud as a member of the Government of Canada, that it has been able to show such success.

A word or two in regard to forestry and agriculture, and as Minister of Agriculture I am particularly interested in that science.

I have dwelt very briefly on the importance of forestry production in the west to agriculture on our treeless plains. Let me say a word here for the province of Quebec in regard to the importance and necessity of forestry to agriculture even in the eastern provinces, perhaps not so much in the province of Quebec, but still a little in the great plain of the St-Lawrence, and much more in the older parts of Ontario. There is no doubt to-day that the farmers of these two provinces are suffering from the fact that their forefathers swept the forests out of existence over large areas of what is at present cultivated lands. It is not necessary in this country especially, where, as in Ontario and Quebec, stock raising and keeping are the basis of agriculture, to say that it is absolutely necessary for the farmer to have abundant pasturage and forest throughout the hot season, as well as a good supply of water for his stock throughout the summer. What is the condition of affairs in many portions of these two provinces? In the old days on the hills and slopes and even down through the valleys there were large bodies of woodlands which conserved the moisture and prevented the too rapid melting of the snows in the spring, and great blocks of comparatively swamp land, which held like a sponge the water trickling down through the whole season to supply the lower lands and pastures with a constant, unfailing and sufficient supply of moisture for the creeks, rivers and lakes of the country. As these bodies of wood have been cut away and the valleys denuded of trees, the result has been to change entirely the condition of the creeks, streams and rivers, so that while in former days they were constant in their flow, and had an abundance of water throughout the whole season, men living to-day can tell you that the streams are dried up in the hot months of July and August where in earlier years there was a constant supply of water. The result is that to-day the pastures are dried and burnt in summer at the very time when their supply of food is most necessary for the cattle. Where within the memory of many men living there used to be an abundant and constant supply of fodder for the animals on the farms, to-day that is not the case, and this unfortunate change has been caused by the wasteful cutting away of the forests. It is time that the farmers and the owners of private properties, wherever they have uncultivable lands, should immediately set to work to plant that land, and bring it back to its original condition, thus supplying those forest lands, so necessary not only for fuel and to beautify the landscape, but actually to supply them with the moisture necessary for their crops through the summer. And if they do not change their methods in this respect I venture to say to

the farmers of Ontario and Quebec that their agriculture will decrease and that they cannot hope to be so successful in the future as in the past. (Applause).

A word or two specially with regard to this province of Quebec:

We here, in Quebec, have the natural conditions most suitable to prevent the conditions I have just pictured. Our great cultivable section of Quebec province lies on each side of the St-Lawrence river. To the south we have the alluvial stretches of the counties bordering the south bank, and on the north we have the long strip stretching from Ottawa to Quebec of good cultivable land, between the Laurentian Mountains and the rivers. There lie the agricultural riches of the province of Quebec, and it is necessary for the preservation of the richness of that piece of land that the rivers and streams in it should be kept at a constant flow throughout the whole season. It is necessary that the people should have a constant supply of good wholesome water the whole season through for themselves and their live stock. We have the natural conditions to give it to them, if we are only sensible to the conservation of those conditions. Take the southern bank of the St-Lawrence. While there is a broad plain of almost dead level land alongside the river in that valley which is suitable to agricultural work, immediately to the south of that plain we have the mountainous regions of the Eastern Townships, the Adirondacks, and further east the Maine mountains extending into Canada. If we preserve the forests in that mountainous country, we have all the conditions necessary to supply an abundant, constant source of water to the plains between them and the river. Therefore I venture to say for the province of Quebec agriculture that it is absolutely necessary that the hill sides and mountain regions near the American frontier should be carefully preserved in forest and in blocks of forest land, so that the sources of the streams which flow into the St-Lawrence from the south, will be maintained as a reservoir for the water supply of that country, so that we may be able to utilize the blocks of forest lands on those mountains and hills to the best advantage of the people, who own them, and of the country at large. This, if done under proper forestry conditions, will continue indefinitely the lumbering industry and the cutting of pulpwood in these regions in addition to benefiting the agricultural conditions below.

Again on the northern side of the St-Lawrence we have the strip of cultivable land between the Laurentians and the river. But back of it in the Laurentian country we have a large area of land not particularly favorable or suitable to agriculture. It is rough, broken, hilly land with not very rich soil in most cases. If we can keep that district as a forest reserve, and preserve the great bulk of forest land in these hills, we have an assurance that the streams which come from it and break through the hills from the northern country, will be kept at an even flow of water and will supply that strip of cultivable land between the Laurentians and the river with abundant water for the agricultural well being of that country.

You, gentlemen of Montreal, are dependent upon the maintaining of the water level of the St-Lawrence for your commerce. The depth of water in the channel is a measure of the advantages of the Port of Montreal, and if you are going to have large vessels coming to your wharves and quays to supply the commerce and trade of Montreal and to preserve it as the commercial metropolis of the Dominion, it is necessary that the water supply of the St-Lawrence should be maintained and not be allowed to go down and down as it has in the past every summer. (Applause) You, therefore, you, merchants of Montreal, you, people who are dependent upon the commercial progress and commercial success of this city, are vitally interested in the forest reserves which will maintain the summer level of your great river and its trade channel to the sea. It is only by these reservoirs of water which will come down gradually from the mountains that the high level during summer can be maintained.

Now, if I may say a word or two with regard to something the President alluded to, that is, with regard to pulpwood. My lines have been laid for many years in the thick of political warfare throughout the country. During that time I have constantly been mixed up in public affairs, regarding them from a political standpoint. I agree with the President entirely that this question of pulpwood should not become a political question, and I wish to say a word or two entirely apart from political views, but regarding it from a purely economical standpoint. There has been an agitation, and it is spreading amongst those specially interested in Forestry to put an export duty on pulpwood. I grant that as a Forester, and interested in Forestry, at first sight I have been rather tempted to think that this should be a good thing. But the more I have examined it, and the more I have studied it, I find this, that every argument which can fairly be brought forward to put an export duty upon pulpwood is equally applicable to the putting of an export duty on the pulp itself, and I was glad to hear in your President's address just now that he pointed out, that in the near future, and the nearer the better, the pulpwood of Canada would be made into pulp in Canada, and the pulp into paper also in Canada. (Applause)

If we are going to build up our industries in this country along that line, why not go to the full extent? Why stop short at the export of pulp and allow Americans and others making the paper for us or for themselves to do it with Canadian products? We have had instances of late years of the fact that the great industrial corporations in the United States have found it to their interest to establish branches in Canada and manufacture for the markets of the world under the protection of the British flag, rather than the Stars and Stripes. I am proud of the fact, I will go further and hope that in the near future the great paper manufacturing industry of the world will have its centre in this, our country, where the raw material of paper is the greatest of any part of the world and that the paper manufacturing of the world will be done under the British flag instead of the American. (Applause)

This is an economic question, and we have a just right to look forward to an economic solution of it, and I think it is not beyond the proper ambition of the people of Canada to come to that point.

Sir, I hope and believe that this meeting here in Montreal will arouse an interest in a large number of classes of people in the country in this forestry question — people who have been hitherto indifferent, to say the least, in the matter, and sometimes, perhaps, actively antagonistic. I have pointed out briefly why the people of Montreal particularly are interested in this question.

Let me say, now, a word or two in regard to the lumbermen of the country, and the interests of Montreal are largely concerned in the way of investment in lumbering also. I want to say emphatically that in my opinion forestry is the best friend of the lumberman. Instead of there being any antagonism between the foresters and the lumbermen, the latter are the very people who most require education along forestry lines throughout the land. They own the limits and have the right to cut the wood. They own these limits practically in perpetuity. If they can conserve these limits indefinitely by scientific forestry methods, they have an asset not only for their own future but for the future generations of lumbermen in Canada, which is absolutely incalculable, and can be made just as advantageous and profitable to their great-great-grand-children as it is to them. (Applause). But if instead of doing this and instead of the adoption of scientific methods they continue the crude and wasteful methods of making the largest profits they can to-day and leaving the to-morrow to take care of itself, they may make (I do not say they will), but they may make a few more dollars to-day. But when they pass from this sphere they will leave behind them an asset, which will be valueless and earn for them the curses of the future generations instead of their blessing, and will show that they regarded not at all the future of their children or the future of the country. (Applause)

I know that to-day the lumbermen of Canada have awakened to these facts, and that they have already adopted improved methods to a very large extent. I know that to-day the lumbermen are perhaps the best supporters of the forestry organization in Canada, and I honor them for it and congratulate them upon this change. I want to impress still more upon them that if they spent even more of their profits, and in that business their profits are large, very large, I do not know any body making more money in Canada in the last few years than lumbermen, I say this without reflection or reproach, I congratulate them on it. It is their right and it is wise that they should do so. But they might spend a little more of these profits in the conservation of their patrimony, rather than try to make a little more money in immediate returns. (Applause)

I have touched lightly upon a number of points which I think are of importance in connection with this question of forestry. I do not intend to make any exhaustive address. I see by your programme that you have the

advantage of papers or addresses by experts, and let me say here that this is a subject of science — a subject in which we require the aid of experts. The rule of thumb in methods of forestry and of lumbering in Canada is no longer sufficient. We want to give the lead to the men who have studied these questions by scientific methods, who are experts. We have here on this programme, first, Mgr Laflamme, let me say again that I am proud and glad to find so distinguished a member of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada, engaged in this research. Everywhere throughout Canada his name is known as a student, as an expert, and I am quite sure the paper he will read to us will be of the greatest value, not only to this Convention but to the country, and I hope that later on it will be distributed everywhere. He is speaking for the farmer, and with due deference to my French-Canadian compatriots, I think there are no farmers in Canada to-day who require instruction upon forestry methods and the value of the tree to the practice of agriculture more than our French-Canadian habitants. I say this without reflection or reproach. Our English speaking farmers are only too near them in that respect. But I hope as a result of the work of such gentlemen as Mgr Laflamme, the French-Canadian habitant will speedily awake to the necessity of changing his methods and to the importance of the conservation of what woodlands he has, and to the further importance of adding to them by planting, as has been so well done at Oka.

Again I find we are to have an illustrated lecture by Professor Roth, Principal of the Faculty of Forestry at the university of Michigan. I welcome to this Convention the foresters who are representing those of the United States who are taking the lead in this work. I may say that although the United States has large forest areas — not so large as ours — and although they have done much in the way of forestry, they have shown us the lead and given us an example which it is well we should follow in Canada, and spend more money on this work. We are not as rich as the United States, and cannot spend so much, but we can work as well and I think we should take hold of this work and learn from their example, and for this reason I am glad that there should be a representative of their work to tell us how it should be done.

I will not go over the other speakers, but, I am sure if all this programme is carried through, information and instruction of very great importance to the people of this country will be provided, and that inspiration will be given to arouse the enthusiasm of new workers which will excite you to still further work and interest in the matter.

I thank you, Mr President, and officers of the Canadian Forestry Association, for the opportunity you have given me of coming before you and saying a few words. I hope to be able to take some part to-morrow in the real work of the Convention, and in concluding I must wish that you Foresters of Canada shall have every success in this most important work you have undertaken in the interest of the whole country. (Loud Applause).

Compulsory Timber Reserves on Settlers' lands

Address of Mr. E. G. Joly de Lotbinière

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

Since lumbering became an industry in Canada, no period ever offered greater incentives than the present, to the holder of timber lands, to attack and destroy our spruce and balsam forests.

Before Canada became the great pulp wood producer that she is to-day, our forests were, comparatively speaking, safe, and no one, even the most pessimistic, ever believed in the possibility of their exhaustion.

They had their natural enemies, fire, disease and insect pest, but lumbering, as carried on 30 years ago, where only mature and adult timber was felled, for conversion into dimension timber, deals and boards, was far from being a menace to the perpetuity of our forest wealth. It was rational exploitation, removing the mature timber to make room for the young growth.

But all that is now changed, spruce and balsam which thirty years ago commanded but a limited market and comparatively low prices, now has the world as a market and prices undreamt of at the period I allude to.

The reasons which have led to the rise in the value of spruce are well known. Among many I will mention but two, the scarcity and exorbitant price of pine and the unprecedented demand for pulp wood coupled with the practically irresistible prices consumers are ready to pay for the article.

It may be of interest in support of what I have just said to draw attention to the rise in the price of pulp-wood during the last ten years. The following figures may be open to criticism, but they are on the whole, I think, fairly correct and represent the price of the wood at Quebec :

In 1899, rough wood was worth, say, \$4.25 per cord, rossed wood, \$6.75. Prices between 1899 and 1907 fluctuated considerably for better or worse, but in 1907, rough wood was selling at \$6.50 to \$7.50 per cord and rossed from \$9.00 to \$10.00.

In 1899 the United States imported from Canada 369,217 cords of pulp-wood, in 1906 738,872 cords, an increase of 369,655 cords. I have not the figures for 1907, but I am told that the imports by the United States almost reached 1,000,000 cords. If that figure is exaggerated for 1907, it will not be so for 1908.

With such a demand for pulp-wood, and with present prices, it is not to be wondered that the future is forgotten, and that our forests are being sacrificed to the golden present.

The few remarks I wish to make, have not, however, as their object a requiem on the disappearance of our pine forests, though it might not be out of place to chant one, nor do I wish them to be considered as a validictory

to our spruce wealth. My object is to suggest to this meeting a means by which we may secure, for the Province of Quebec at least, a constant and perpetual supply of timber for our settlers, wood to enable them to build and repair their homes and fuel to heat themselves and their descendants for ever.

What I am about to suggest may appear to some here to-day, as an invitation to bar the stable door, after horse is stolen. But such is not the case. It is true that millions of acres in the Province of Quebec are held in freehold, or under patent, with no restriction whatsoever as to the way timber on such areas may be treated, but gentlemen, there are yet millions of acres of Provincial lands which will ultimately be opened to colonisation and my remarks apply to those lands.

I will now put before you a scheme devised by my father to compel the habitant to preserve as "perpetual bush lot" a certain portion of his property. This scheme has been in operation for over 30 years and has proved a success. If success has attended the efforts of a private individual, I can see no reason why our Provincial Government, if it is willing to adopt the scheme and honestly and conscientiously carry it out, should not obtain a measure of success at least equal to that which we have attained.

Within the last thirty years, my father has made many sales of timber lands on his Seigniorship of Lotbinière. These sales have been of a twofold nature. Some lands have been sold as "terre à bois", small bush lots of from 15 to 20 acres each, to provide fuel and construction material to the purchaser, others have been sold as agricultural lands, but with a bush lot reserve.

I will now draw your attention to the clauses in these deeds, referring to the protection of the timber.

The following clause is found in the deed of sale of all timber lands, sold simply to supply the purchaser and his descendants with fuel and building material:—"It is moreover agreed between the parties to the present deed, that the said lot is sold upon the express condition, that no portion of the same shall be cultivated, that no wood or branches shall be burnt thereupon, that the lot will be preserved as a "wood lot" by the purchaser his heirs and assigns, and that no wood from the said lot shall be sold, under penalty of paying to the seller, his heirs and assigns the sum of "\$100.00.

Where a lot is sold for the purpose of settlement, a timber reserve was always stipulated, in the following terms:—"Permission is given to open and cultivate the said lot up to such and such limit, (and then comes the restriction) that the remainder of the said lot shall not be cultivated, that no wood or branches shall be burnt upon it, that the said portion of said lot shall be preserved as a "wood lot" by the purchasers, his heirs and assigns for their own use and that no wood will be sold from the said reserve under a penalty of \$100.00.

In both cases the deeds further say, that the clauses I have cited are not

only for the protection of the seller from fire that might spread to his adjacent lands, but to protect the purchasers also from the same danger. Allusion is also made to the fact (and that 30 years ago), that the sale in the case of a "bush lot" is made to furnish the purchaser with fuel and building material that he can no longer find anywhere in the vicinity of his home.

In the case of lands to be settled, the forest reserve or "bush lot" was invariably made at one end of the lot or the other, so that all the bush lots should be contiguous. The purchaser was not allowed to select his timber reserve. Had he been permitted to do so, he would invariably have chosen at his bush lot the worst part of his land and that containing the least timber.

As I said before, this scheme of my father's, which has now had over 30 years trial, has proved a success. The lands sold as purely "wood lots" are to-day covered with a dense growth of timber and on the lands which were sold for settlement, the reserve has been almost invariably respected and the terms of the deed adhered to.

On a 100 acres lot, a reserve of say 20 acres, with the restrictions I have mentioned, as "perpetual forest reserve", would be amply sufficient to supply the purchaser and his representatives with an inexhaustible supply of fuel and building material and not only that, but every new township instead of shortly becoming the treeless, parched desert our old settlements now are, would be covered with an ample supply of timber.

This forest cover would not only give the settler the fuel and building material he would need, but it would powerfully aid in maintaining the water powers with which a provident hand has so liberally endowed our favoured Province. Industries dependant on cheap motive power would be assured, agriculture would be enormously benefitted, our settler would be free from any possible wood famine and nothing but good could result from the adoption of the policy I have but briefly outlined.

The suggestion I have made may, I trust, find sympathisers amongst those here to-day and I earnestly hope that this association, in its wisdom, will take the necessary steps to draw the different Provincial Governments attention to the reform I have attempted to advocate. Its adoption cannot be prejudicial to the country, it can only be a practical factor for good.

Address of the President

Mr. HERBERT M. PRICE

At Montréal, 11 and 12 March

First of all I must congratulate our Association on the fact that the annual meeting is held in Montreal, as it is now some 26 years since the last (and at that time the first) meeting was held here by the American Forestry Association. This city is capable, with its great influence, in being almost a determining factor in movements in this province tending towards the good of our forests and water powers. I must mention that the desire of the Directors of the Association to come into closer touch with, and get an expression of opinion from an increase in the interest of our French Canadian friends had much to do with the decision to hold the meeting here, as Toronto was anxious for the meeting to be held there.

We all hope that the two languages will be jointly used in papers and discussions, as in this way only a permanent interest can be worked up and a knowledge of the objects of the Association made widely known. We must reach the people in the country and it can only be done by popularizing the subject and we are now using articles for publication and for translation in the French press. I trust that the Association will this year publish in English and French, as suggested by Monsignor Laflamme, the annual report, which will include a full account of this meeting.

It is most encouraging to see His Excellency the Governor-General and our Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leading the forces of Forestry progress in this country and taking such a deep interest in everything appertaining to the subject and at the same time the President of the great and friendly nation to the south of us working on similar lines.

It appears to me that there is much to be done in this country as regards the people getting fuller information as to our true resources in the way of timber and wood generally and, although I know that all these statements must be estimates, yet a beginning should be made and I think that a report from the Forestry Branch of the Interior Department somewhat on the lines of the publications issued by the Forest Service of the United States, such as "Forest Products of the United States," "The Use Book", etc., would be invaluable.

There is a great want of a more thorough exploration of the timber to the north, not only of this province, but of Ontario, and the Dominion Government might explore the northern parts of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, as our knowledge of these is very limited and, if it were ampler would be invaluable. The publication "Canada's Fertile Northland", with the useful maps annexed, issued last year by the Railway and Swamp Lands Branch,

Department of the Interior, giving, as it states, a glimpse of the enormous resources of a part of the unexplored regions of the Dominion, is a valuable contribution to what information we have on this subject.

As regards Canada's legislative action on such questions as export duty, etc., statistics should be issued annually as regards the cut and consumption of wood in Canada.

It has been suggested that a desirable means of encouraging the objects our Association have in view would be to establish branch association in the different provinces and then have them affiliated with the parent one. I would, therefore, ask those of our members who reside outside the provinces of Quebec and Ontario if they would take up this question without delay. Perhaps, as the parent society is at Ottawa, it would not necessitate branches in the province of Quebec and Ontario. The parent association would thus be in constant touch with the sentiment throughout the whole Dominion.

It is satisfactory to learn that Newfoundland has a Forestry Association well under way.

I would call attention to a condition in the Regulations re licenses and permits to cut on Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the North-West Territories and within twenty miles on either side of the C. P. R. in the province of British Columbia, that the licensee shall keep in operation for at least six months in each year a sawmill capable of cutting 1,000 feet in every 24 hours for every $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles under license. This is, in my opinion, an undesirable condition and tends in the contrary direction to an enlightened forestry policy. Better to raise the annual ground rent and spend more on fire protection in the northern parts of the above mentioned territories than to make cutting compulsory. The timber is going fast enough.

My attention has been called to the large shipments of small spruce trees from the province of Quebec, particularly in the Sherbrooke district, to the United States for Christmas trees. These run from 3 to 8 feet in height and sell for from 10 to 25 cents each in Canada. This trade should be prohibited, as it has assumed large proportions, trees going as far south as Pennsylvania. It appears that the Commissioner for the New York State Forest, Game & Fish Commission has drawn the public attention to the grave consequences that must result from this great destruction in New York State.

Canada has immense areas and, in proportion, a smaller number of men to protect same against fire, compared to the United States, although of late years more active measures have been taken against this enemy of our forests by all the provinces.

I think it is right to say something on the much discussed question of an export duty on pulp wood, which, of late, has been brought prominently to the front by President Roosevelt's proposal to take the duty off wood pulp in return for free pulpwood from Canada. I believe this proposal might justly be made more favorable to Canada by lowering the duties on paper, as the freight on wood pulp is always a serious factor in its shipment.

That an arrangement in this direction is more desirable than an export duty on pulpwood I strongly believe, having advocated at our Ottawa Convention in January, 1906, a policy of reciprocity as opposed to one of reprisal and I have no doubt that Canada will get a fair quid pro quo for her supply of pulpwood. The progress made by Canada in the last six or seven years in the pulp and paper trades has been in a greater ratio than that made by the United States. In connection with this export duty, I may mention that the last report of the American Forest Service states that the average estimate of length of supply of pulpwood given by 164 mills was 21 years and Mr. Gifford Pinchot last year estimated that the timber supply of the United States would last, at present rate of cutting, from twenty to twenty-five years.

If we had careful estimates made in Canada by our Forestry Department and information given by the provinces as is given in the official publication "Forest Products of the United States", we would get at an approximate estimate of our production and supply.

The Directors of the Association have decided that it is not expedient that any resolution shall be accepted on this subject at this meeting lest it might have a political complexion and as the subject is one on which strong differences of opinion exist. It is very probable that the report of the Royal Commission will be acceptable to the country as a solution of the question.

It is very encouraging to see the principles the Forestry associations advocate being generally put in practice throughout this continent and I note that, in his last message to Congress, President Roosevelt, who is a strong friend of Forestry, recommended the establishment of Appalachian and White Mountain reserves. This question of reserves is now generally recognized by all the provinces of the Dominion and they are annually increasing such areas gradually.

The Government of the province of New Brunswick held a very successful Forestry meeting at Fredericton in February of last year, a full report of which they have issued and it was generally admitted that it had the beneficial effect of spreading much information and creating many friends for the principles we advocate.

The good effects of the meeting of this Association in British Columbia, at Vancouver in September, 1906, have been apparent in the increased precautions taken against fire which that province was much in need of and the live interest now taken in the subject of forestry generally in British Columbia.

I feel that it is not out of place on my part to suggest that the Federal and Provincial Governments procure and publish accurate reports on the water powers and also the water storage facilities of this country.

The storage question will at no distant date be one of vital importance to Canada as it has now become in the United States and was brought prominently before this Association by Mr. Cecil B. Smith in his address at the Ottawa Convention in 1906, which issued a note of warning, especially as electric roads run by water power can supplant steam and so prevent fires.

Storage means much to forest, animal and fish life and, to quote an expression, "And it is coming because it will pay."

This Association is now eight years old and our membership stands at about 1,200, but I trust that before this meeting terminates many new names will be added. I would ask every member to aid the work of the Association by handing in the name of a new member within a short time of this appeal reaching him and request them to aid the work of our quarterly journal by contributions of interest on forestry and kindred questions, for our object is to make this journal one of general interest and not purely academical.

This Association is greatly indebted to the Dominion Government as well as the Provincial Governments of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia for the grants made by them towards aiding the work of the Association.

I have no doubt that Mr. Campbell will give us useful information on the great work being done in the North West Territories by the Federal Government in the way of tree planting.

The Federal and Provincial Governments and all the Legislative bodies of the Dominion are united on the preservation of the forests and the necessity for preserving the sources of our water powers and the ground is, therefore, ready for the seed that this Association is endeavoring to sow.

As regards some definite national policy to be advocated by this Association, I think that outlined by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his address at the Ottawa Convention, in January two years since, is the most definite and practical. It was that all the hills, mountains and plateaux which are the sources of flowing streams and rivers should never be allowed for any consideration whatever to remain anything else than forest; that these portions of the earth's surface should form part of the national domain and belong to the State, which includes Federal and Provincial Governments and that where such portions of these watersheds have been alienated and transferred to private ownership, the policy should be to repurchase them for the national domain.

